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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Polish Resentment of Soviet Construction of
Palace of Culture/Unfriendly Relations Between
Soviets in Warsaw and Poles

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. [redacted] Poles in Warsaw resent the construction of the Palace of Culture very deeply. Those who have some ideas about art think its architecture is hideous, heavy, and ornate in the bourgeois style of the 'secession'. Others resent it simply because it is forced upon Warsaw by the Soviets.

2. ☐ During many months of the construction, the Soviets could not have helped observing the general inimical atmosphere among the people regarding their work. Therefore, the control of all persons coming to visit the site is extremely severe. Many excursions from the countryside which were promised a visit to the site, the Palace as one of the most important spots of new Warsaw, have been turned back by the sentries. People in Warsaw have formed a new joke about it. They say that when the Palace of Culture is completed, the ten lower floors will be occupied by offices checking and screening those who come to visit the Palace. 50X1-HUM

3. ☐ The number of Soviets employed on the construction has recently decreased. Some teams have been sent back to the USSR. There is still a total lack of personal contact between the Soviets and the Polish population. The Soviets on the whole behave quietly and rather inconspicuously. They seem to be acting under instructions to make the best possible impression on the population. But sometimes they get out of hand, and then incidents occur which in a matter of hours are known all over Warsaw. 50X1-HUM

4. ☐ One particularly unpleasant incident, [redacted] happened in autumn 1953. A young Polish woman in the seventh month of pregnancy, went to Praga suburb to visit her father and was on her way back home in the evening. While she was on her way to a bus stop, she was attacked by several [redacted] 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

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Soviets, workers from the site of the Palace of Culture who raped her. In her condition, this proved fatal. The woman died, and her father hanged himself in despair.

5. ☐ Everybody in Warsaw talked about this incident for days. In the beginning the authorities tried to hush the matter up, but when they realized that it was generally known, they publicized that the attackers of the poor woman had been 'Polish bandits' from the forests (i.e. anti-Communist underground). No one in Warsaw had any illusion, however, as to who was the guilty party. 50X1-HUM
6. ☐ Especially strong anti-Soviet feelings exist in Rokossowski's army, among soldiers who resent their Soviet commanders in Polish uniforms, and also among younger Polish officers there is resentment. ☐ behind closed doors of military courts many trials are held against Polish officers for offending their Soviet 'colleagues', and ☐ the punishments are very severe, counting long years of imprisonment. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

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